

**To:** [REDACTED] ([REDACTED] 5.1.2e) ([REDACTED] 5.1.2e) @minvws.nl]  
**From:** [REDACTED] 5.1.2e  
**Sent:** Sat 12/19/2020 9:53:01 PM  
**Subject:** RE: ECDC RT Report 17 December 2020 - Threat Assessment UK Variant  
**Received:** Sat 12/19/2020 9:53:04 PM

Dearest [REDACTED] 5.1.2e

One of the recommendations of the threat assessment sets out the need to “notify new SARS-CoV-2 variants of potential concern through the EWRS.” So far UK and South Africa.

Best wishes,

[REDACTED] 5.1.2e

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**From:** [REDACTED] 5.1.2e ([REDACTED] 5.1.2e) <[REDACTED] 5.1.2e @minvws.nl>  
**Sent:** Saturday, December 19, 2020 10:31 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED] 5.1.2e (SANTE) <[REDACTED] 5.1.2e @ec.europa.eu>  
**Subject:** RE: ECDC RT Report 17 December 2020 - Threat Assessment UK Variant

Thank you [REDACTED] 5.1.2e We also received this document. Best regards,

[REDACTED] 5.1.2e

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**Van:** [REDACTED] 5.1.2e <[REDACTED] 5.1.2e @ec.europa.eu>  
**Verzonden:** zaterdag 19 december 2020 22:29  
**Aan:** [REDACTED] 5.1.2e ([REDACTED] 5.1.2e) <[REDACTED] 5.1.2e @minvws.nl>  
**CC:** [REDACTED] 5.1.2e <[REDACTED] 5.1.2e @minvws.nl>; [REDACTED] 5.1.2e <[REDACTED] 5.1.2e @ec.europa.eu>; [REDACTED] 5.1.2e <[REDACTED] 5.1.2e @ec.europa.eu>  
**Onderwerp:** FW: ECDC RT Report 17 December 2020 - Threat Assessment UK Variant

Dearest [REDACTED] 5.1.2e

I am sharing with you this draft assessment. As mentioned below, the variant could be more **transmissible**, but other factors could also explain recent trends in South England including social and behavioural drivers.

Best wishes,

[REDACTED] 5.1.2e

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**From:** [REDACTED] 5.1.2e (SANTE) <[REDACTED] 5.1.2e @ec.europa.eu>  
**Sent:** Saturday, December 19, 2020 8:26 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED] 5.1.2e (SANTE) <[REDACTED] 5.1.2e @ec.europa.eu>  
**Cc:** [REDACTED] 5.1.2e (SANTE) <[REDACTED] 5.1.2e @ec.europa.eu>  
**Subject:** FW: ECDC RT Report 17 December 2020 - Threat Assessment UK Variant

Dear [REDACTED] 5.1.2e

Find attached the draft threat assessment brief on UK (South England) SARS-CoV2 variant.

**Work in progress** - Still being updated and publication moved forward to tomorrow (see below).

Conclusions (based on **limited available evidence**):

- Could be more **transmissible**, but other factors could also explain recent trends in South England (as also mentioned by Prof. Piot at Thursday’s scientific advice platform meeting who referred to social and behavioural drivers).
- Impact on **diagnostic** test: limited – only for one not commonly used assay
- Impact on **severity** of disease: strain seems not associated with increased severity (caveat: most cases reported so far in <60 year old)
- Impact on **reinfection**: possible, but too early to say (but likely to observe some reduction in neutralisation by antibodies)
- Impact on **vaccine effectiveness**: unknown at this stage – the new virus variant displays several mutations

in the spike protein including in the receptor binding site. Antigenic characterisation ongoing, results in coming weeks. Reflects the need for close monitoring of field effectiveness.

Best,

5.1.2e

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**From:** 5.1.2e <5.1.2e@ecdc.europa.eu>

**Sent:** Saturday, December 19, 2020 8:05 PM

**To:** 5.1.2e (SANTE) <5.1.2e@ec.europa.eu>; 5.1.2e <5.1.2e@ecdc.europa.eu>; 5.1.2e <5.1.2e@ecdc.europa.eu>; 5.1.2e (ECDC) <5.1.2e@ecdc.europa.eu>

**Cc:** 5.1.2e (SANTE) <5.1.2e@ec.europa.eu>; 5.1.2e <5.1.2e@ecdc.europa.eu>; 5.1.2e (ECDC) <5.1.2e@ecdc.europa.eu>

**Subject:** RE: ECDC RT Report 17 December 2020 - Threat Assessment UK Variant

Dear 5.1.2e

Please find attached the version which has been circulated to EU/EEA countries and UK (including the EWRS) and SANTE services.

Do note that we are revising the content, based on information we have seen from South Africa and the UK policy decisions announced just in the last few hours. We have decided also to try to anticipate publication of the TAB to tomorrow, by noon, and will be sending out notices to that effect to the stakeholders.

5.1.2e is now on well deserved leave, and 5.1.2e is deputising.

Kind regards

5.1.2e

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**From:** 5.1.2e <5.1.2e@ec.europa.eu>

**Sent:** 19 December 2020 19:43

**To:** 5.1.2e <5.1.2e@ecdc.europa.eu>; 5.1.2e <5.1.2e@ecdc.europa.eu>; 5.1.2e <5.1.2e@ecdc.europa.eu>

**Cc:** 5.1.2e <5.1.2e@ec.europa.eu>; 5.1.2e <5.1.2e@ecdc.europa.eu>

**Subject:** FW: ECDC RT Report 17 December 2020 - Threat Assessment UK Variant

Dear 5.1.2e

Taking the liberty to forward directly to you in parallel as technical lead and PHE manager, as this is urgent. I understand from the RT report that it was already circulated on Friday (for publication on Monday). Thanks a lot for your help!!

5.1.2e

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**From:** 5.1.2e (SANTE) <5.1.2e@ec.europa.eu>

**Sent:** Saturday, December 19, 2020 7:30 PM

**To:** 5.1.2e (ECDC) <5.1.2e@ecdc.europa.eu>; 5.1.2e <5.1.2e@ecdc.europa.eu>

**Cc:** 5.1.2e (SANTE) <5.1.2e@ec.europa.eu>; 5.1.2e (SANTE) <5.1.2e@ec.europa.eu>

**Subject:** Fwd: ECDC RT Report 17 December 2020

5.1.2e

I've been asked if you can send immediately a copy of your UK new mutation risk assessment, mentioned in the report attached.

Grateful for an urgent response.

Best

5.1.2e

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Duty EI 24/7 <support@ecdc.europa.eu>

Date: 17 December 2020 at 12:39:15 CET

To: "5.1.2e (SANTE)" <5.1.2e@ec.europa.eu>, SANTE DL C3 <5.1.2e@ec.europa.eu>, SANTE CONSULT-C3 <5.1.2e@ec.europa.eu>, SANTE EWRS <5.1.2e@ec.europa.eu>, SANTE HEOF COMMUNICATION <5.1.2e@ec.europa.eu>, SANTE HEOF MEASURES <5.1.2e@ec.europa.eu>, SANTE HEOF FACILITATOR <5.1.2e@ec.europa.eu>, 5.1.2e <5.1.2e@ec.europa.eu>, 5.1.2e <5.1.2e@ec.europa.eu>, DL\_ECDC Experts <5.1.2e@ecdc.europa.eu>, 5.1.2e <5.1.2e@ecdc.europa.eu>, 5.1.2e <5.1.2e@ecdc.europa.eu>, International Relations <5.1.2e@ecdc.europa.eu>, pr u INFOSCAN <5.1.2e@ecdc.europa.eu>, 5.1.2e <5.1.2e@ec.europa.eu>, Duty EI 24/7 <support@ecdc.europa.eu>, 5.1.2e <5.1.2e@ecdc.europa.eu>

Subject: ECDC RT Report 17 December 2020

Dear colleague,

We are pleased to share with you the ECDC Round Table Report. This report summarizes the daily roundtable discussion and provides update on threats detected and monitored by Epidemic Intelligence. This report contains information that might be sensitive or under verification. Its distribution is restricted to intended users only.

For further distribution, translation or copy of contents please contact [support@ecdc.europa.eu](mailto:support@ecdc.europa.eu).

Best regards,

5.1.2e

On behalf of  
ECDC 24/7 duty team

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